17. (Amended) A host cell comprising:

(a) an Ad backbone plasmid [consisting essentially of] comprising an Ad genome lacking map units 0 to 9.2, wherein the numbering of the map units starts with the lefthand ITR and wherein the backbone plasmid lacks a loxP sequence, and

(b) a shuttle plasmid [consisting essentially of] comprising Ad sequences from 0 to 1 map units and 9.2 to 16.1 map units of an Ad genome wherein the shuttle plasmid lacks a loxP sequence.

22. (Amended) A method for [rapidly] producing recombinant adenovirus comprising contacting a host cell with

(a) an Ad backbone plasmid [consisting essentially of] comprising an Ad genome lacking map units 0 to 9.2, wherein the numbering of the map units starts with the lefthand ITR and wherein the backbone plasmid lacks a loxP sequence, and

(b) a shuttle plasmid [consisting essentially of] comprising Ad sequences from 0 to 1 map units and 9.2 to 16.1 map units of an Ad genome wherein the shuttle plasmid lacks a loxP sequence.

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on December 19, 2001, and the references cited therewith. Claims 11, 15-17, and 22 are amended; as a result, claims 2-8 and 10-25 are now pending in this application. No new subject matter has been added. The cancellations and amendments have been made to clarify the claims in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, and not for reasons of patentability. Therefore, the amendments are not intended to limit the scope of equivalents to which any claim element may be entitled. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

Regarding the recitation that the plasmid lacks a loxP sequence in claims 11, 16, 17 and 22, one having ordinary skill in the art upon reading the full disclosure would recognize that a